



HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

An electronic newsletter in support of public safety services in Montana

VOLUME 5 • ISSUE 38 • Oct. 2, 2009



IM Weekly Highlights



- Motorola has completed link and functionality testing at the Cominco and Pat's Knob sites with the assistance of Dave Clouse, IM Project Manager. The sites are now in wide-area trunking. Coverage testing is to follow in the near future.
- The new Bull Mountain tower foundation was completed on Tuesday.
- Construction crews continue their work at the Sawtell and Coburn sites despite recent bad weather.
- All defective transceiver boards have been replaced along the Northern Tier microwave backbone.
- Becky Burger, 9-1-1 Program Manager and Kevin Bruski, IM Executive Director, attended the Emergency Medical Services conference in Billings and updated attendees on both programs.

Montana 9-1-1 Receives Grant Award

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

On Sept. 25, Governor Schweitzer's office was notified that Montana has received a one-time grant in the amount of \$871,597.80 from the U.S. of Transportation and the U.S. Department of Commerce as part of the Ensuring Needed Help Arrives Near Callers Employing 911 Act (ENHANCE 911 Act), Public Law 108-494.

Multiple county Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) as well as the State 9-1-1 Program will benefit from the award; however, exact disbursement amounts are not yet known. Grant recipients must provide a 50 percent match for grant awards, and funds must be expended by September 30, 2012.

The award notice congratulated Montana for taking this lifesaving step and for helping emergency responders make their 9-1-1 capabilities more efficient and effective. **Kudos go to Becky Berger, her staff in the State 9-1-1 Program and to participating PSAPs**

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9-1-1 Program Welcomes New Employee

By Becky Berger bberger@mt.gov

Rhonda Sullivan has just joined the 9-1-1 Program Office as the Assistant 9-1-1 Program Manager. Her duties include project management and working with wireless providers on wireless E911 cost recovery.



She has more than 30 years of background in the telecommunications industry, including nine-and-a-half working at Verizon Wireless as a field/electronics technician where she built and maintained mountaintop and metropolitan cellular sites throughout Montana. Prior to Verizon she managed the telecommunications system for St. Peter's Hospital in Helena while working in the IT Department. Her career started at Mountain Bell/Qwest Communications with several technical positions.

We welcome Rhonda to the Public Safety Service Bureau and the 9-1-1 Program.

CITIG Announces Canadian Voice Interoperability Workshop

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov



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The Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group (CITIG) is hosting its third Canadian Voice Interoperability Workshop in Halifax, Nova Scotia on Nov. 15-18 at the Marriott Harbourfront. The workshop brings together a broad base of public safety and emergency management practitioners for the purpose of developing a mutual understanding of key voice and data interoperability issues facing today's public safety sector.

With a focus on information exchange, topic-specific discussion and interactive break-outs, the session aims to support and promote the transfer of best practices and experience as well as the development of a more unified approach to public safety interoperability across the country, between nations, and internationally.

Delegates can expect to be "put to work" during extensive break-out sessions that will address development of the Canadian Communications

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Interoperability Plan (CCIP); Province-Wide Communications Interoperability Plans (PSCIPs); regional governance models; SOPs; Training & Exercises; and Usage. Participants will come away with real-world insights, practical knowledge, and a common-sense approach to moving forward. The Workshop will also have hands-on sessions designed to help gain an understanding of the following items:

- National and Cross Border Interoperability Planning
- Provincial, regional and local interoperability strategic planning
- Interoperability and the challenge of governance
- Trends in interoperability technology, including both voice and data related issues
- Practical advice on running interoperability training & exercises
- Spectrum Management with a focus on 700 MHz & the “Digital Dividend”
- Situational Awareness, Common Operating Pictures, GIS Systems and Blue Force Tracking

Conference registrations must be made in advance. Participants may register online at www.cacp.ca or, by calling (613) 233-1106. The registration cost is \$450 plus tax, which includes all plenary sessions, the Sunday evening “Meet and Greet,” Monday evening reception, 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 5 refreshment breaks.

For more information about the Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group, please visit the CITIG website at www.cprc.org/citig.

Dynamic Discourse at IM Technical Committee

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

Bob McWilliams, IM Technical Committee (IMTC) Chair, reported on Administrative Committee Decision making at the Monday, Sept. 28, IMTC meeting, indicating that DIR 134 had been approved to reconfigure T-1 mapping on the Sullivan to Helena microwave hop.

Mike Dailey, DNRC Hydrologist, and Clayton Jordan, Bureau of Reclamation, spoke to the group about a telemetry project for transmitting water data on the Milk River, which is primarily an irrigation system. Members explored various solutions for collecting and transmitting data.

Jack Spillman reported on a frequency conflict that the FCC missed during the licensing process, and discussed resolution options. Dale Osborne, Montana Highway Patrol, gave the encryption sub-

committee report, and members decided not to implement a code change at this time. Dorothy Gremaux, Central Montana Dispatch Center, gave the dispatch connectivity sub-committee update and reported that she has created a document that lists all radio console models located at dispatch centers around the state. The next step is to send the document to Mark Canton, Motorola, to provide a list of options for possibly upgrading or replacing equipment so consoles can link into the IM system. Members discussed the Standardized Trunking Groups (Zone C) best practice in detail, and work will continue on the document.

Mark Adams, Northrop Grumman, who is working on the Remote Visual Assessment (RVA) Project on behalf of the U.S. Air Force, gave a report on the structural analysis that was performed on the Sullivan tower, and distributed engineering reports illustrating overstress situations depending on planned equipment upgrades for future growth. The IMTC directed Mark to re-configure the analysis data in a different manner, which he will do for both the Sullivan and South Moccasin tower analyses.

Committee members approved the latest draft of best practices for fencing at communications sites. They also passed a motion to approve the technological approach outlined in DIR 135 for re-licensing and re-tuning two ODU's on the Gallatin County Ring. In addition, members discussed the Northern Tier microwave system, equipment warranties, training, the Second Master Controller and spare parts for trunking and microwave. The committee also moved the Dec. 28 IMTC meeting a week earlier to Dec. 21. The meeting finished with consortium reports.

The next IMTC meeting is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 26, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, at the MACo offices, 2715 Skyway Drive, in Helena.

Upcoming Meetings

IM Outreach Meetings

http://interop.mt.gov/im_outreach_meetings.mcpix

• DES Fall Conference

Yogo Inn, 211 E Main St., Lewistown, MT
IM Presentation: Fri., Oct. 9 - 11:30 am

Oct. 6 (Tues.)

City of Billings Radio Needs Assessment Presentation
Billings • 2:00 - 4:00 pm
Billings Fire Station/EOC, 2305 8th Avenue North

Members approved the latest draft of best practices for fencing at communications sites.